

REMARKS

U.S. Application No. 09/994,603 contained claims 1-17. Claims 3, 4, 8, 11 and 13 were withdrawn from consideration as a non-elected species without traverse. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 12 and 14-17 were then allowed. This divisional application therefore has cancelled claims 1-17 and presents claim 18-49 for examination on the merits.

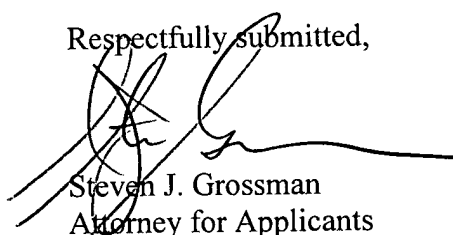
In addition, the specification has been amended to add a proper cross-reference to all related applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered before the examination of the present divisional application. Applicant has calculated the filing fees based on the number of claims pending as a consequence of this preliminary amendment.

In the event there are any deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our deposit account No. 50-2121.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Grossman
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 35,001

Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pflieger, PLLC
55 South Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
USPTO Customer No. 32047